

**Title 26: LABOR AND INDUSTRY**  
**Chapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Section 1. DEFINITIONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Section 1-A. LIVABLE WAGE DEFINED.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 2. REPORTS OF DEATHS AND INJURIES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 3. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 4. ENFORCEMENT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 5. INJUNCTIONS IN LABOR DISPUTES WITHOUT HEARING PROHIBITED.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 6. INTERLOCUTORY APPEAL.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 7. APPEALS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 9. NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES.....</b>	<b>7</b>



**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 26: LABOR AND INDUSTRY**  
**Chapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§1. DEFINITIONS**

The following terms used in chapter 3 shall have the following meanings.

**1. Factory.** "Factory" means any premises where steam, water or other mechanical power is used in aid of any manufacturing process there carried on.

**1-A. Loan fund.** "Loan fund" means the Occupational Safety Loan Fund.

[ 1985, c. 372, Pt. A, §5 (NEW) . ]

**2. Person.** "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, company or association and includes the State, state agencies, counties, municipal corporations, school districts and other public corporations or political subdivisions.

[ 1975, c. 519, §1 (AMD) . ]

**2-A. Safety fund.** "Safety fund" means the Safety Education and Training Fund.

[ 1985, c. 372, Pt. A, §5 (NEW) . ]

**3. Workshop.** "Workshop" means any premises, room or place, not being a factory, wherein any manual labor is performed, or for the purpose of gain in or incidental to any process of making, altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing or adapting for sale any article or part of an article, and to which or over which premises, room or place the employer of the person or persons working therein has the right of access or control. The exercise of such manual labor in a private house or a private room by the family dwelling therein, or by any of them, or in case a majority of persons therein employed are members of such family, shall not of itself constitute such house or room a workshop within this definition.

[ 1967, c. 100, (AMD) . ]

**4. Workplace.** "Workplace" means any plant, yard, premises, room or other place where an employee or employees are engaged in the performance of labor or service over which the employer has the right of access or control.

[ 1975, c. 519, §2 (NEW) . ]

These terms shall have the meanings defined for them respectively in all laws of this State relating to the employment of labor, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context.

**SECTION HISTORY**

1967, c. 100, (AMD). 1975, c. 519, §§1,2 (AMD). 1985, c. 372, §A5 (AMD) .

## §1-A. LIVABLE WAGE DEFINED

As used in this Title, unless the context otherwise indicates, "livable wage" means the statewide average livable wage for a 2-parent household with 2 earners and 2 children as reported by the Department of Labor in the most recent biennial report required pursuant to section 1406. [2011, c. 569, §1 (AMD).]

### SECTION HISTORY

2007, c. 363, §1 (NEW). 2011, c. 569, §1 (AMD).

## §2. REPORTS OF DEATHS AND INJURIES

**1. Reports of deaths.** The person in charge of any workplace as defined in section 1 provided by the State, a state agency, a county, a municipal corporation, a school district or other public corporation or political subdivision shall, within 8 hours after the occurrence, report the death of any person in the workplace or on the premises to the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards, or the director's designee, by telephone or electronically, stating as fully as possible the cause of the death and the place where the deceased person has been sent and supplying other information relative to the death that may be required by the director who may investigate the causes of the death and require such precautions to be taken as will prevent the recurrence of similar events. A statement contained in any such report is not admissible in evidence in any action arising out of the death reported.

[ 2015, c. 138, §1 (AMD) .]

**2. Reports of serious physical injuries.** The person in charge of any workplace as defined in section 1 provided by the State, a state agency, a county, a municipal corporation, a school district or other public corporation or political subdivision shall, within 24 hours after the occurrence, report all serious physical injuries requiring immediate hospitalization sustained by any person in the workplace or on the premises to the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards, or the director's designee, by telephone or electronically, stating as fully as possible the extent and cause of the injury and the place where the injured person has been sent and supplying other information relative to the injury that may be required by the director who may investigate the causes of the injury and require such precautions to be taken as will prevent the recurrence of similar events. A statement contained in any such report is not admissible in evidence in any action arising out of the accident reported.

[ 2015, c. 138, §1 (AMD) .]

**3. Serious physical injuries defined.** "Serious physical injuries," as used in this section, means an incident that results in an amputation, loss or fracture of any body part or that necessitates immediate hospitalization or formal admission to the inpatient service of a hospital or clinic for care or treatment.

[ 2015, c. 138, §1 (AMD) .]

### SECTION HISTORY

1969, c. 274, §1 (AMD). 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). 1975, c. 519, §3 (AMD). 1975, c. 717, §1 (AMD). RR 1995, c. 2, §57 (COR). 2003, c. 244, §1 (RPR). 2015, c. 138, §1 (AMD).

## §3. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

**1. Confidential records.** Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, all information and reports received by the director or the director's authorized agents under this Title are confidential for the purposes of Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph A.

[ 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (NEW) .]

**2. Exceptions.** Reports of final bureau action taken under the authority of this Title are public records for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1.

[ 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (NEW) .]

**3. Authorized disclosure.** The director shall make or authorize any disclosure of information of the following types or under the following circumstances with the understanding that the confidentiality of the information will be maintained:

A. Information and reports to other government agencies if the director believes that the information will serve to further the protection of the public or assist in the enforcement of local, state and federal laws; and [2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (NEW).]

B. Information and records pertaining to the workforce, employment patterns, wage rates, poverty and low-income patterns, economically distressed communities and regions and other similar information and data to the Department of Economic and Community Development and to the Governor's Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of analysis and evaluation, measuring and monitoring poverty and economic and social conditions throughout the State, and promoting economic development. [2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (NEW).]

[ 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). 1987, c. 534, §§B14,B23 (AMD). 1997, c. 132, §1 (AMD). 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §10 (AMD). 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). 2015, c. 250, Pt. C, §2 (RPR).

## §4. ENFORCEMENT

The District Court and the Superior Court shall have original jurisdiction of actions brought for the recovery of fines and penalties imposed by this Title, and of prosecutions for violations of the provisions thereof.

## §5. INJUNCTIONS IN LABOR DISPUTES WITHOUT HEARING PROHIBITED

No court nor any judge or judges of any court may issue a preliminary or permanent injunction in any case involving or growing out of a labor dispute except after hearing the testimony of witnesses in open court with opportunity for cross-examination and after a showing that the injunction is necessary to avoid a substantial and irreparable injury to the complainant's property and that the public officers charged with the duty to protect the complainant's property are unable or unwilling to furnish adequate protection. The hearing shall be held after due and personal notice of the hearing has been given in such manner as the court directs to all known persons against whom relief is sought. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

If a complainant alleges that the issuance of a temporary restraining order before the hearing can be held is necessary to avoid a substantial and irreparable injury to complainant's property, a temporary restraining order may be granted upon the expiration of any reasonable notice as the court may direct by order to show cause but in no case less than 48 hours. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

The order to show cause must specify facts sufficient to justify the court to issue a preliminary injunction. The order shall be based upon testimony under oath or, in the discretion of the court, upon affidavits sworn to before a notary public. The order shall be served upon the party or parties to be restrained. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

The temporary restraining order shall be effective for no longer than 5 days except as provided in this section. If the hearing for a preliminary injunction has begun before the expiration of the 5 days, and if the complainant has shown by clear and convincing evidence that an imminent danger of substantial and

irreparable injury to the complainant's property or person will exist if the restraining order is not continued, the restraining order may, in the court's discretion, be continued until a decision is reached upon the issuance of the preliminary injunction. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

A temporary restraining order without notice may be issued only on the condition that the complainant has shown by clear and convincing evidence that an imminent danger of substantial and irreparable injury to the complainant's property or person exists in the absence of a restraining order. The order without notice may furthermore be issued only on the condition that the complainant must first file an undertaking with adequate security sufficient to recompense those enjoined for any loss, expense or damage caused by the issuance of the order, including all reasonable costs and expense for defense against the order or against the granting of any injunctive relief sought in the same proceeding and subsequently denied by the court. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

No restraining order or injunctive relief may be granted to any complainant who has failed to comply with any obligation imposed by law which is involved in the labor dispute in question, or who has failed to make reasonable effort to settle the dispute either by negotiation or with the aid of any available governmental machinery of mediation or voluntary arbitration. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (NEW).]

No officer or member of any association or organization, and no association or organization participating or interested in a labor dispute, may be held responsible or liable in any state court for the unlawful acts of individual officers, members or agents, except upon clear proof of actual participation in or actual authorization of these acts, or of ratification of these acts after actual knowledge of the acts. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (NEW).]

Nothing in this section may deprive any party of any remedy that may be had at law. [1989, c. 407, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 460, (RPR). 1975, c. 623, §§35-A (AMD). 1987, c. 736, §43 (AMD). 1989, c. 407, §§1,2 (AMD).

## §6. INTERLOCUTORY APPEAL

Any party may appeal to the law court from an interlocutory order granting or denying a preliminary injunction in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, but such preliminary injunction shall not be stayed by the taking of such appeal. Any such appeal shall be heard at the first term of the law court commencing not less than 14 days after the appellant has filed the record on appeal with the clerk of the Superior Court and furnished the required copies of his brief to the clerk of the law court. Copies of the briefs of other parties shall be furnished to the clerk of the law court not more than 10 days after the appellant's brief has been filed. The law court shall affirm, modify or set aside the order with the greatest possible expedition and shall give such proceedings precedence over all other matters except older matters of the same character.

## §7. APPEALS

Any order by a board created and established under this Title, or any rule, regulation, determination or declaration formulated by the board or by the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards is subject to review by the Superior Court, pursuant to Title 5, section 8058 or section 11001 et seq. [1995, c. 2, §58 (COR).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). 1977, c. 694, §440 (RPR). RR 1995, c. 2, §58 (COR).

## §9. NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Employee organizations, unions and bargaining agents in the private sector engaged in collective bargaining with employers may negotiate on behalf of retired and retired disabled former employees of the employer with respect to pensions, retirement benefits and other benefits which, as a part of wages and benefits related to employment, are, were or may be carried with retired employees into retirement. [ 1979 , c. 334 , (NEW) . ]

### SECTION HISTORY

1979 , c. 334 , (NEW) .

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